Tee-Dee Want Ads Pay Best and Pay

RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 81, 1908.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

HALF A THOUSAND SOULS PERISH IN HORRIBLE AGONY OF FIRE AND SMOKE.

The Weather.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 39.—Forecast for Thursday and Friday: Virginia—Fair, warmer Thursday; Fri-day partly cloudy; variable winds. North Carolina—Fair Thursday and Fri-day; variable winds.

A temperature not far above the freezing point made yesterday a good day for brisk walking or proximity to glowing free. It was a delightful winter day. After nightful the mercury began to r.so.

STATE OF THE TEHRMOMETER.

Richmond.

Richmond.

Reinion of The Times-Dispatch Contributors, Club at the Bijou yesterday.

J. M. Barr elected president of the beauty of the London of London of

Virginia.

Virginia.

Robert Gleason, colored, hung at Amberst Courthouse for the cold-blooded nurder of J. C. Reed—Big meeting in Nortolk to-night to raise money to save the Jamestown Exposition—Prince Edward farmers hear Colonel John S. Cuningham at Farmville, on the tobacco skituation—Many interesting marriages throughout the State—Four barrels of black pass caught none haul in a tributery of the Potomac—Fatal shooting in Scott county—Old Williams homestend, it. Bedford, destroyed by fire—Brothers follow an eloping girt to Staunton and one of them tries to thwart her purpose, but does not succeed; it ends in marriage—Mortality report of Petersburg more han twice as large among the negroes is the whites—Highland county lessuand and the roads in fearful condition—Barbecue and diliner by New York where of fine farm at Sandy Polin, in vestmoreland—Hon. Harry St. George tucket indicates that his canaddacy for overnorship is not an impossibility—New York doctor comes ta Shaunton is try to influence his young wite to leave a float Time, theatrical company, but he cludes him.

North Carolina.

New railroad soon to be built from Oxford into Halifax county, Va,—Vala professor, two days in jail at Greensboro for insanity, drugged into insensibility to us taken home—Virginia clopers successfully married at Greensboro—Main tailding of Masonic Orphanage to be made into residence for superintendent and more dormitories built—The railroads will not resist the mandato of the Corporation Commission to build a botter depot at Hickory—Burt Finser, who made a murderous assault on Captain Fowler, brought back from Mecklenburg for trial—Catawba county farmers form an exchange for the disposal of real and fersonia property—Cigar guesser, at Greensboro, believed to have secured the chief prize of \$5,000.

General.

Alore than seven hundred persons perish in flames and panle during fire in friculois Theatre in Chicago; dead men, women and children piled almost celling high in passages; many perished in their seats from flames and funces of "s, withomore were literally trampled to death in mad fight for the exits; whole city stuperied from grief; appalling size of the calisatrophe—Another will day on cotton market and prices decline on heavy realizing, despite efforts of bulls and of so is active and easy—Stock market is corded support from influential quarters, but nevertheless it is not able to leep prices up to mark; money market feels pinch of approaching sattlements for end of year—Relation of rant and interest the subject of discussion at American Economic Association in New Orleans—Situation in far East is described as being desperate, but not hosciess: Itussia is delaying sending reply to Jaranese, no. it is presumed, in an effort to but onus for declaring war on Japan—Presiden Rooseyelt declares that when time comes to take action to prevent ano her, asserce of Jews in Russia that he will not be found wanting.

WILL SERVE WITH NORTH STATE TROOPS

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20.—At the WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 30.—At the request of the Governor of North Carolina, Brigadier-General Carl A. Woodruft, U. S. A., retired, has been ordered to report to the Governor at Raleigh for duty with the organized militia of the State of North Carolina for a period of four years, unless sooner releved. This detail is made under the provisions of the Dick militia bill, and while serving under it General Woodruff will receive the full pay and allowances of his grade.

SUMMARY OF THE DAY'S NEWS Chicago Visited by Catastrophe Which Can Only be Mentioned With DESPERATE Such Occurrences as Destruction of St. Pierre, Martinique. Fire in New Theatre Accompanied by an Explosion and Panic From Which Few Escaped With Their Lives.

REUNION A JOYFUL ONE

Hundreds of the T. D. C. C. Members Gathered at the Bijon Theatre.

AN EXCELLENT PROGRAMME

Appropriate Addresses and the Grand Finale a Flashlight Photograph.

Over the faces of the thousand or mor Bijou Theatre yesterday afternoon there fitted from moment to moment, as some clever actor caught the spirit of his un touched a responsive chord in the hearts of his small hearers, the glow of a happiness and a mirth as rare and as grate ful to the beholder as it was genuine and unaffected in the beheld.

Such was the commanding feature of the first grand reunion of the great and growing T. D. C. C., which cabalistic signs translated read Times-Dispatch Contributors' Club, an organization unique in its composition, but decidedly promising in its character. Lightsome and glad was the crowd, with the simple and elemental happiness of the child that knows no serious care. Hundreds of little ones, ranging in years from five to lifteen and were gathered beneath the brilliant lights of the popular little theatre

The entertainment opened, progressed and closed, and not one moved to leave and closed, and not one moved to leave until the flash that admitted the group to the photographer's film gave them the signal to depart. Every little face beamed with pleasure and satisfaction; every cheek wore an excited flush; every cye an additional sparkle. No staid and stitted thing was this, but a rare and genuine and spontaneous ebuilition of infantine spirits that carried all with a rush before it. It recalled to many an older head in their midst the days of not so long ago, when they, too, were light-hearted and free; it caused many an aged eye to renew momentarily its lost lustre of childhood; it revived in many a breast the rapidly waning free of youth, compedling all there to cast aside the experience of years, to turn back the fleeing time, and for the nonce to join hands again with the happy and care-free child.

A Rare Gathering.

The Governor of Virginia spoke to them. Brief words they were, but rich in wisdom. The Mayor of the city and other distinguished gentlemen also added their voice to the sentiment of the day. To each the children gave his mead of a plause-heartily, unstintedly, unaffected-ly. No more thorough testimonial could have been given them. The independence

(Continued on Third Page.)

RAPID TRANSIT TO **BEGIN ITS WORK**

Street Committee to Pass on · the Plans This Evening.

The Citizens' Rapid Transit Company, which, it is understood, proposes to use the Jenkins underground conduit system in connection with the operation of their street railway here, desire the approval of their plans, in order that they may begin, work in accordance with the pro-

begin, work in accordance with the provisions of their charter on January 1st, which is to-morrow.

The charter of the company provides for forfetture of the same unless work is commenced by to-morrow night.

The Street Committee hell a meeting yesterday afternoon, and took up the matter, but the plans were not in shape for approval. Another meeting will be held at S o'clock this evening, when the plans will be before the committee for action. When the plans shall have been approved the company will at least do some act constituting a commencement of the work, so as to preserve their charter.

GOV. BECKHAM'S BROTHER MARRIED IN SAVANNAH

(By Associated Press.)

(By Associated Press.)

SAVANNAH, GA., Dec. 30.—Lleutemant,
David Y. Beckham, United States army,
and Miss Myra Willcox, of this city, were
married at the independent Presbyterian
Church to-night. Lloutemant Beckham is
a brother of Governor Beckham, of Kontucky, who was present. The crush at
the church was so great that a reserve
of police had to be called out to preserve order.

THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIGHT IN MAD STRUGGLE TO ESCAPE DEATH

Strong Men Are Unnerved by the Sights They Are Forced to Witness While Helping to Remove Dead Bodies From Mass Which Was Piled Nearly Ceiling High in Passages-Women and Children Trampled and Burned Into Unrecognizable Pieces of Flesh-Pall of Grief That Stupefies Cast Over the Entire City.

(Special Telegram to The Times-Dispatch.)

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 30.—The most awful theatre fire in America's history to-day cost the lives of more than five hundred people here.

The Iroquois Theatre, within five weeks of its opening, burned during the matinee performance of "Mr. Bluebeard, Jr.," and at 8 o'clock to-night Coroner Treager reports by actual count the bodies of 736 dead, and there are still an unknown number in the ruins.

Nearly all of these were killed-asphyxiated, burned or trampled to death-within ten minutes.

They died in the midst of a panic and a struggle that for horror is unparalleled.

Every element of awfulness that could characterize a theatre fire was present; the crowd fought to get to the doors in alternate darkness and flashes of flame, those in the balconies jumped down upon the wretched throng below, mothers were torn from their children and died shricking for them, and when it was all over the dead were found heaped almost to the ceiling in the passages, or wedged, still standing, in dense ranks in the aisles.

Only to be compared to such frightful occurrences as the destruction of Martinique, is the fire in one of the largest and what was considered the safest theatre in the city. There is not recorded in history such a frightful waste of life in a fire resulting from man-made causes.

Perish in Agony.

Swept to death in a wild, roaring burst of flame, which caught thousands and held them mercilessly trapped in the crowded playhouse, more than one-third of an audience, composed mainly of

women and children, perished in agony too horrible to contemplate.

To-night the morgues, hospitals and police stations are piled high with bodies twisted, torn and burned to charred crisps by the flames, which spread to every part of the building, aided by two frightful explosions of gas while the fire was at its height.

Chicago has been thrown into a stupor by the horror of the affair, which is almost too great for comprehension, and to-night hundreds of homes have been plunged into deep sorrow or the frightful horror of uncertainty over the death or undetermined fate of those who were in the theatre or who are thought to have been there.

All over the city the telephone wires are carrying messages from home to home, making inquiries regarding those feared to have been caught in the death trap on Randolph Street.

Men inured to scenes of horror have broken down under the strain of the fearful scenes witnessed, for these scenes have been not only terrible in dramatic intensity, but of an infinite sadness, for from the charred and brackened interior have been brought forth heads of little bodies, crushed and charred in a manner to cause the strongest to shudder, while the efforts to hold back the frenzied mothers from the doors of the house of death have broken the nerves of the stalwart men, guarding the theatre and have left them weakened and sick with the horror and sadness of it. Above everything else this one feature stands out from the fire in the Iroquois Theatre.

Hundreds of Bodies of Children.

The audience was a holiday audience of women and children and became in this way a veritable slaughter of the innocents, for in many cases there were several little ones with each woman and the tender bodies of these were crushed to death in the first mad rush for safety.

Hundreds of bodies of these tiny children, with skulls crushed and broken against the iron seats and heavy railings, have been taken from the building, while horrible beyond belief has been the sight presented by the bodies of those little ones who died of suffocation or in the fierce heat of the flames. To-night every store building in this part/ of Chicago's business section has been turned into a

temporary morgue or emergency hospital. Hundreds of physicians are at work, although their efforts are pitifully futile, while of the thousands who have offered their services, a corps of several hundred has been selected, which has aided in carrying away and disposing, for the time, of charred bodies as they are brought forth by the firemen at work in the burned theatre. In that building the firemen found a condition against which nerves, hardened by years of frightful experiences, weakened and gave way.

Bodies Piled In Heaps.

In the narrow exits from the fallen balconies were found bodies charred to a crisp, piled to twice the height of a man's head. Here the terrified crowds from the upper part of the theatre had massed in a mob, which jammed the exits from the galleries, and which made it a death trap, which caught practically all of those who had entered that part of the theatre. Only those who escaped in the first wild rush missed being caught in the crush in the balcony exits. All others fell into the wild tangle of human bodies or were caught behind this frightful barricade of thedead and slowly suffocated, crushed to death or burned by the fierce bursts of gaseous flame, which swept through the building and filled every part

Here in the balconies the slaughter was most frightful and the greatest number of bodies were found, but the same cause left heaps of huddled corpses lying throughout the lower floor, the crush at locked exits, being cut off from all escapes after the doors became jammed. On the orchestra floor, however, death appeared to have come quickly, for women and children were found lying far from the exits, suffocated and burned, although hundreds had been caught in the wild crush near the lobby. Children's Bodies Trampled Upon.

Everywhere were found the bodies of children, many of them, little tots of five or six years of age, who had been taken to the theatre as a holiday treat. These were found with their skulls crushed and their faces trampled into pulp, beneath the feet of those who dashed into the thick of the mob,

crowding around the doors. The full effect of the disaster had been developed to its height in ten minutes. The touch of the grotesque that was only needed to make the scene almost too horrible to appear other than the dream of some fantastic fictionist, was added by the appearance of the principals and chorus of the "Mr. Bluebeard" Company, in costume, among those aiding in the gruesome work of caring for the injured, who were taken from the burned building.

Shivering in their thin tights of silk or flimsy gowns of lace, the women, bruised and bleeding from their wounds, worked heroically with the physicians and nurses in the effort to care for the injured or consoling the frantic mothers who were driven back from the doors of the theatre.

Already a searching investigation into the cause of the fire has been begun. Only the main exits were open and into these the entire audience of 2,200 attempted to crowd. Many women fought their way to the open air with the first crowds that got out, but the horror of the panis which impelled them and the nature of the fight they made were shown by the fact that when they reached the streets many of them had been stripped of every stitch of clothing.

(Continued on Second Page, First Column.)

DISASTERS REMEMBERED

Those of the Past Are Recalled by Yesterday's Horror in Chicago.

RICHMOND IS IN THE LIST

The Burning of the Theatre in 1811-Panic in Nearly Every Case Caused Loss of Life.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 30 .- Marvelously of the last score of years. A flash of flame, a puff of smoke and then-panic that crushed hundreds, 'ere the smoke even, had a chance to reach them. It was so in the fire that burned the Brooklyn Theatre, in 1876, when 293 persons Richmond Theatre in 1811; in the fire that destroyed the Opera Comique in the burning of the Ring Theatre in Vionna in 1881, causing the death of 1,900, and in the more resent destruction of the Charles Bazaer in Paris, when 390 per shed, including the flower of the French nobility, in the Brooklyn Theatra fire it was a panie that caused the greatest number of deaths. The rush for exits blocked them and the firemen, when the great building had been reduced to a mero shell, found the dead lying there in heaps,

It is a coincidence that the construction of the Iroqueis Theatre and that of the Opera Comique in Paris were very much alike. The domes of both these buildings so suddenly crumpled by fire were

The destruction of the Ring Theatro in Vienna in 1831 tops the others in the awful loss of life. The fire started at 7:30 o'clock, as the vast audience was pressing in through the entrances. Fully 1,500 had already been seated.

The first purf of smoke sent the people rushing for the exits. They nucked themselves into the alsless and fell upon one another in their cagerness to escape. The exits were blocked and afterwards most of the piled up dead were found near the main entrance.

The burning of the Opera Comique in Paris six years inter marked another fatal panic. Two hundred were crushed and burned, it was impossible in many cases to identify the dead.

of the destruction of the Charity Bazar in Parls on May 4, 1897. The hundreds who lost their lives included the Duchess D'Alencon, sister of the Empress of Aus-tria; the Duchesse D'Uzes, a society lead.

(Continued on Second . age.)

WERE POWERLESS TO RESCUE THEM

Prominent Men Perish in Fire Which Destroys the Troy Club.

Troy Club.

(By Associated Press.)

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 30.—Moses T. Clough, the nester of the Renssallaer county bar, and the last survivor of the cluss of 1831 of Dartmouth College; William Shaw, head of the law firm of Shaw, Bailey and Murphy, and Bentamin W. It ney, manager for the Fulle-Warren Company of Boston, Mass., lost their lives in a fire which partially destroyed the Troy Club at an early hour to-day, Although the doomed men were seen at the windows, nothing could be done to save them, so dense was the smoke and so rapid the progress of the flames.

Edward Carpentler, of New Yors, was taken from an upper window by firemen and removed to a hospital, where he is recevering from the effects of smoke inhaled. He was in town preparing for his marriage with a young soc cty woman of the city. All the persons kil%d were occupying rooms on the upper floor, where the fire broke out. Tree fire is thought to have been caused by a lighted eigarette being thrown among some combustible material. The loss will reach \$55,000.

SITUATION IN FAR EAST

Japan and Russia Almost Sure to Fight.

RUSSIA WILL NOT HURRY HER REPLY

Purpose Seems to be to Put Onus of Declaring War on Japan

PESSIMISTIC VIEW IN ST. PETERSBURG

Editorials Say There May be War To-morrow, Though There Is None To-day-Japan Has Closed Deal for the Argentine Warships.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—It is learned in diplo-matic circles that the Japanese govern-ment has informed the foreign diplomats that the situation with respect to Russia s desperate, but not hopeless. It is be-loved this information was communicated to the French government for presenta-

Ion at St. Petersburg,
While still not believing that war beween Russla and Japan will eccut the
optimistic tone in official and diplomatic pircles here was somewhat modified to lay by advices from Tokio and St. Peters the Japanese note.

onus of declaring war upon Japan, if such be the result of the negotiations.

Pessimistic View.

(By Associated Press.) ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 30.—The foreign despatches received yesterday after-noon are reflected to-day in more pessimistic editorials. The Novoe Vremys, begins its leader

row there may be war." er fatalistically directs attention to the the seventeenth, eighteenth and nine teenth centuries.

professes faith in a peaceful settlement, saying: "We believe Japan will not place of her vital interests in the Far East. Russia does not desire war, but nobody m Russia will permit the Japanese or other friends to execute a diplomatic cance upon Russia's peaceful disposition. in firm consciousness of her power, Rus-

Situation Gives Concern. (By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 30.—The

Japaneso minister called at the State Department to-day and reported that the situation in the Par East is one that gives great concern, and that Japan is making preparations for the worst, it is hoped, however, that Russia will re-

Deal Is Closed.

(By Associated Press.) LONDON, Dec. 30.—Japan this evening completed the purchase of the Argentine warships Moreno and Riyadavia, building Genoa, Italy, for which Russia also

FOR CARRYING FREIGHT BETWEEN N. Y. AND MANILA

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 .- The War Department has accepted the bid of Funch. Edye & Company, of New York, for the contract for carrying government freight between New York and Manila for the six months ending July 1, 1904, at \$8.15

between New York and Manila for the save them, so dense was the smoke and so rapid the progress of the flames.

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DENNIS LEAHY SHOT

DEAD IN KNOXVILLE

KNONYILLE, TENN. Dec. 30.—Dennis Leahy, for several years a player in the Virginia League, and at one time a member of the Cincinnati feam, was snot and killed here to-day by Frank Ragan, began was arrusted.